Sunday, December 26, 2010 ● ● 11 sections / Vol. 26 / No. 18 P20 | www.inquirer.net | Mobile Alert:

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



CHRISTMAS CROWD Hundreds of families keep up with a Christmas Day tradition, spending quality time at Luneta, the country's premier park, in Manila.

Pope prays: Break rods of oppressors

Resist persecution, Christians urged

VATICAN CITY—In his Christmas Eve homily and traditional Christmas Day message, Pope Benedict XVI prayed for God to break the rods of the world's oppressors and encouraged Catholics in Iraq and China to resist persecution.

Speaking from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica to thousands of people braving the chill and drizzle in the square below, he delivered Christmas greetings in 65 languages, including those spoken in the world's trouble spots.

Earlier, in his homily during the Christmas Eve Mass, the Pope said: "Lord make your promise come finally true. Break the rods of the oppressors. Burn the tramping boots. Let the time of the garments rolled in blood come to an end."

"This Child has ignited the light of goodness in men and has given them strength to overcome the tyranny of might," Benedict, who was celebrating his sixth Christmas since his election, told some 10,000 people inside the basilica.

"We thank you for your goodness, but we also ask you to show forth your power," he said. "Help us to recognize your face in others who need our assistance, in those who are suffering or forsaken, in all people, and help us to live together with you as brothers and sisters, so as to become one family, your family."

In his message on Saturday, the Pope hoped Christmas would bring consolation to Christians in Iraq and all the Middle East, where the Vati-

POPE A4



VATICAN MASS Pope Benedict XVI waves at the end of Christmas Eve Mass in St. Peter's Basilica.

Vatican 'belen' has 9 Filipino statues

By Philip C. Tubeza

WITH A FILIPINO Christmas carol as background music, the Vatican unveiled its Nativity scene on Friday at St. Peter's Square that for the first time included nine Filipino statues.

A report on the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) website yesterday said the Filipino icons complemented the traditional figures of the Holy Family to mark the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the Holy See.

Filipino sculptor Rubio Ponce-Millan designed the statues "to represent different indigenous groups of the Philippines in a festive celebration of faith, music, food and family on the occasion of the birth of Jesus," the CBCP report said.

"The attractive smiling figures dressed in colorful native attire and playing musical instruments, portray the

VATICAN A6

Record 100,000 pilgrims flock to Bethlehem

BETHLEHEM, West Bank—A record number of pilgrims from around the world—estimated at over 100,000—have thronged Bethlehem, in the largest, merriest Christmas celebration seen in a decade in this biblical West Bank town where tradition holds Jesus was born.

The pilgrims flocked to the Church of the Nativity, built on the site of Jesus' traditional birthplace, for prayers on Saturday morning as part of the annual holiday festivities.

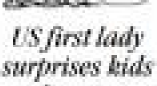
The warm weather, a sharp decline in Israeli-Palestinian violence and an economic revival in the West Bank all added to the holiday cheer.

By nightfall, a packed Manger Square was awash in red, blue, green and yellow Christmas lights.

Merrymakers blared horns, bands sang traditional Christmas carols in Arabic, Boy Scout marching bands performed and Palestinian policemen deployed around the town to keep the peace.

Israeli military officials, who coordinate movement in and out of the West Bank, said over 100,000 pilgrims had come to

RECORD A7



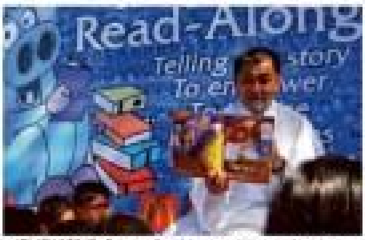
US first lady surprises kids trailing Santa

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colorado—Some kids who call Norad on Christmas Eve to find out where Santa is hang up as soon as a volunteer answers the phone—probably because they expected a recording and not a real person, whose Santa trails his day.

There were some specially sweet kids on Friday, when one of the people answering the phone was First Lady Michelle Obama.

A telephone link from Hawaii, where the Obamas are on vaca-

US FIRST A11



NATIVITY SCENE Fr. Jayson David shows to children the Nativity scene in a book to read at Tarlac Penal Colony.

Inquirer Read-Along features Christmas story

By Jo Martinez-Clemente
Inquirer Central Luzon

TARLAC CITY—Although it's been told many times, many ways, it has never ceased to amaze people, particularly children in this season of joy.

On Wednesday, "The Wonderful Story of Christmas" was read to 60 children at a garden patch inside the Tarlac penal colony for the second Inquirer Read-Along session here.

Fr. Jayson David, SDB, principal of Tarlac's Don Bosco Technical Institute, did the honors for youngsters visiting parents or relatives serving prison terms.

The book was written in French by Mathieu de Laubier, translated to English by Anne

READ-ALONG A7

A school rises from used plastic bottles

By Romulo O. Ponte
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN PABLO CITY—Soda drinkers are helping address a shortage of classrooms in this town while, at the same time, saving the environment.

Empty plastic bottles are being collected to build a school with eight classrooms at Barangay San Jose. The containers are put together with cement pretty much like bricks.

The collection under the project, dubbed "Plastic Bot-

A SCHOOL A11



Second FRONT PAGE



Bomb hits Christmas Day Mass

AN IMPROVISED bomb exploded during Christmas Day Mass at a chapel inside a police camp in Jolo town, wounding a priest and 10 churchgoers, officials said yesterday.

'Barbaric act'

Second compound

Palace denounces attack



SANTA'S SURPRISE

Mutineer won't admit guilt

No comment



Mental retardate can be credible as witness—SC

Cardinal to Noynoy: Choose well

CEBU CITY—"Choose well."

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

RH bill is terrorism–CBCP

By Philip C. Tubeza

[illegible]



CHRISTMAS STORY

GMA bill seeks to ease rules on absentee voting

AND COUNTING
House roster now at 283

By TJ Burgonio

New aviation chief takes over; no ill feelings

GMA now safe from Truth body, says ally

By Michael Lim Ubac



ARROYO

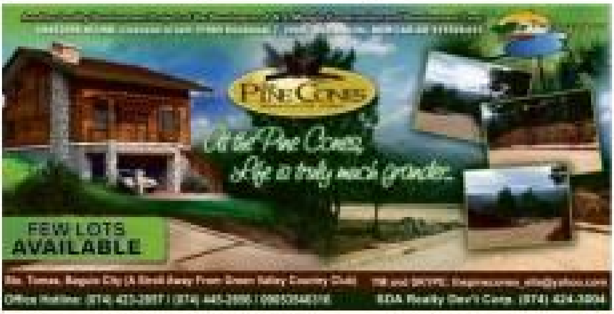


LAGMAN

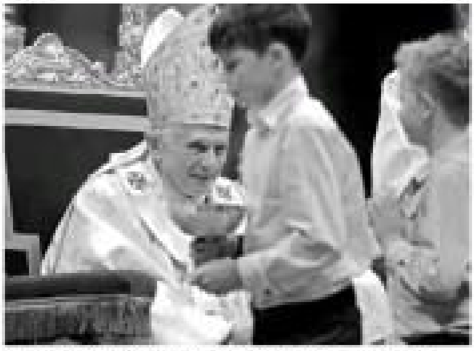
'Deaf and blind'

Shabu found in underwear

By DJ Yap







CHRISTMAS MASS Boys bring Pope Benedict XVI a chalice during the offertory as he leads the Christmas Mass in Saint Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.



BETHLEHEM MASS Latin patriarch of Jerusalem Fouad Twal carries a statuette of Baby Jesus during the midnight Mass at the Church of the Nativity in the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

Pope prays to God: Break rods of oppressors

From page A1

can from that violence, such as an October attack by militants on a Baghdad church that killed 52 people, is fueling a Christian exodus from the region.

"May the light of Christmas shine forth anew in the Land where Jesus was born, and inspire Israelis and Palestinians to strive for a just and peaceful coexistence," he said.

Benedict also directly criticized China, where recently Catholics loyal to the Pope were forced to attend a series of events by the state-backed Church which does not recognize his authority, bringing relations with the Vatican to a low point.

The 83-year-old German Pope prayed that Christmas would "strengthen the spirit of faith, patience and courage of the faithful of the Church in mainland China" and desired "the limitations imposed on their freedom of religion and conscience."

Benedict asked God to "grant perseverance to all those Christian communities enduring discrimination and persecution, and inspire political and religious leaders to be committed to full respect for the religious freedom of all."

He also called for peace in Somalia, Darfur and Ivory Coast, reconciliation between the two Koreas and respect for human rights in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Angels' protection

Police were on heightened security in the Vatican and in Rome two days after parcel bombs exploded at the Swiss and Chilean embassies in Rome. Anarchists claimed responsibility for the attacks, which injured one person at each embassy.

More police than normal were seen along the main street leading from the Tiber River to the Vatican but the atmosphere in the square was festive despite the security and the rain.

More vigilant guards

Vatican guards also were more vigilant on Friday night following security breaches for two consecutive years at Christmas Eve Masses by the same woman, Susanna Maiolo.

Last year, the woman, who has had a history of mental problems, jumped over a barricade as the Pope walked up the basilica's main aisle and managed to pull him to the floor. The year before, she was stopped before she could reach him.

"His guardian angel will protect him and each one of us will be protected," said tourist Gayle Savino, from New York, as she entered the basilica for the Pope's Christmas Eve Mass. "It's just a blessing to be here on such a wonderful night on Christ's birthday."

Benedict processed down the central aisle of St. Peter's Basilica at the start and end of Friday's Mass without incident. With his normal phalanx of bodyguards on either side, he stopped several times to bless babies held up to him from the pews.

Troubled year

The Pope has had a troubled year, clouded by hundreds of accusations against pedophile priests around Europe and the United States, as well as alleged cover-ups by senior clergy.

In a book of interviews titled "Light of the World" and published last month, the Pope described the scale of abuse as an "unprecedented shock." He likened the crisis to "a volcano out of which suddenly a tremendous cloud of filth came, darkening and soiling everything."

"It is necessary for the Church to be vigilant, to punish those who have sinned, and above all to exclude them from further access to children," he said.

Benedict has apologized, met with victims and approved stricter rules for dealing with predator priests but he has come under fire from campaigners for not doing enough to punish senior bishops responsible for hiding the abuses.

Criticism of China

The Pope's criticism of China for its curbs on religion and freedom of conscience reflected the tense relations between the Vatican and Beijing.

"May the birth of the Saviour strengthen the spirit of faith, patience and courage of the faithful of the Church in mainland China, that they may not lose heart through the limitations imposed on their freedom of religion and conscience but, persevering in fidelity to Christ and his Church, may keep alive the flame of hope," he said.

"May the love of 'God with us' grant perseverance to all those Christian communities enduring discrimination and persecution, and inspire political and religious leaders to be committed to full respect for the religious freedom of all."

Benedict's comments followed an attack by China earlier this week, when it called the Vatican "imprudent" for criticizing the state-sanctioned Chinese church, which is not recognized by the Pope.

The Vatican had said appointments of clergy by the Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association had "unilaterally damaged the dialogue and climate of trust" with Beijing.

No diplomatic ties

The Vatican and China have not had formal diplomatic ties since 1951, when the Holy See angered Mao Zedong's communist government by recognizing Kuomintang regime in Taiwan.

But on Thursday, the Pope appointed Hong Kong theologian Savio Hon Tai-Fai to a top post in the Church's missionary agency in a move seen in the Vatican as a key for improving ties with China. *Reports from Reuters, AFP and AP*



Vatican 'belen' has 9 Filipino statues

From page A1

joyful spirit of Philippine Christmas which is known as the 'longest and most festive celebration in the world.'"

This was the first time that the Vatican allowed a country outside Italy to participate in the preparations for its giant Nativity scene, which occupies more than 3,280 square feet of St. Peter's Square. The event was initiated in 1982 by the late Pope John Paul II.

The oldest statues in the reproduction of the Bethlehem scene were prepared by no less than a 19th-century Saint of the Catholic Church, St. Vincent Pallotti.

"Filipinos are honored as they join the hundreds of pilgrims who come to St. Peter's Square at this time of the year, to contemplate the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who came to call all peoples into the one family of God," the CBCP report said.

Unveiling rites

Philippine Ambassador to the Vatican Mercedes A. Tuason and Filipino community leader Josephine [illegible] led Filipinos in Rome during the unveiling ceremony which began at 5 p.m.

Angelo Cardinal Comastri, archpriest of the Basilica of St. Peter, led the prayer service, while a Filipino Christmas carol sung by the [illegible] Filipino choir from [illegible] Filipino was a special highlight of the occasion.

At 6 p.m., Pope Benedict XVI lighted a candle for peace as he watched the unveiling ceremony from the window of the papal apartments. In the darkness, he blessed the assembled crowd with the light of the single candle, the CBCP report said.

Tuason thanked the Government of the Vatican City State for giving the Philippines "a special place in the center of the Roman Catholic Church's celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ this year."

The gesture, according to Giovanni Cardinal Lajolo, president of the governorate, was a recognition of the Philippines' special contribution to the Catholic Church, CBCP report said.

Lajolo noted the dynamic faith of Filipino Catholics, and underlined that the Philippines is the largest Christian country in Asia, the report added.



THE VATICAN unveils its "belen" at St. Peter's Square on Dec. 24.

To Virginia's family, yes, Santa Claus is still real

[illegible]

Ambassadors of Christmas

[illegible]

Idea of Santa

[illegible]

True New Yorker

[illegible]

Record 100,000 pilgrims visit Bethlehem

From page A1

[illegible]

Hopes for peace

[illegible]

Tears at Manger Square

[illegible]

Memories of bloodshed

[illegible]

Conciliatory call

[illegible]

Surreal moments

[illegible]

Year of peace

[illegible]

Read-Along features Christmas story

From page A1

[illegible]

World of 'Patootsays'

[illegible]

Volunteers

[illegible]

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
OPINION

Screen savior

AT FIRST, we were thankful for the delight. Filipinos adored the cinema in the country even from its relatively humble beginnings back in the 19th century. There was just something about the bright lights, the beautiful actors and the gift of escapism offered by motion pictures that beguiled Filipinos, who trooped to the cinema in ever increasing numbers.

EDITORIAL

The grand pictures of Pamilyang, Rogelio dela Rosa and Gloria Romero marked the 1950s as the time of glamor in Filipino movie-making. After that period of manicured sets and flawless stars, a sense of grittier reality, of a socially critical consciousness began to make itself felt in the movies—along with color.

Ironically, it was Ferdinand Marcos and his declaration of martial law that gave Filipino cinema the spark of impolite but meaningful reality that reflected the everyday Filipino story. These movies, however, were not the mainstream movies found in the average downtown theater. The Marcos era saw not only the rise of sexy movies but also the work of screen artists such as Lino Brocka, Ishmael Bernal, Mike de Leon and Marilou Diaz-Abaya. These controversial films struggled mightily to be seen by Filipinos even as a wave of escapism began to overtake the majority of Philippine movies.

A decade later, Filipino movies were smothered by a combination of junk-food romances, inane musical comedies and unbelievably silly action movies. The audience began to drift away, and foreign blockbusters came in force to steal even more moviegoers away to their cause. Mainstream cinema slowed to a crawl, with the increasingly cash-strapped studios producing just a fraction of the volume it used to do.

From out of that mire emerged a powerful new force that could be traced back to Kidlat Tahimik's surreal short film "Mababangong Bangungot" and the work of Raymond Red, among others. Often self-funded, these deeply personal, greatly artistic movies opened up an entirely new avenue for both the Filipino filmmaker and the film viewer.

They were dubbed "independent" or "indie" films, and nothing could be more fitting, as these movies were not only brought to life outside the studio system, but they were also adventurous beyond belief, with each generation of filmmaker becoming much more daring than those who came before them.

The advances in digital filmmaking was the powerful fuel the cinematic revolution needed, and soon the indie movies were outstripping mainstream movies in terms of quality—something recognized by foreign film juries if not by home audiences.

At the helm of this new golden age were the directors, each one bringing their own visceral and visual vision to their projects in the millennium crowd, many of them finding critical acclaim and receiving honors as they exhibited their works around the world—for example, Auraeus Solito's "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" was named official Filipino entry to the Academy Awards' Foreign Language Film; Brillante Mendoza won the award for Best Director at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival for the film "Kinatay"; and a new host of visionaries split the scene: Jeffrey Jeturian, Chris Martinez, Lav Diaz, Adolfo Alix Jr., Khavn dela Cruz, Erik Matti, Francis Xavier Pasion, among many others. The range of directors reflected the diversity of their experiences and their messages. There were cinematic dreams borne aloft by the strings of a violin, by a grandmother's plight, the wayfarer struggles of a people.

Among those experiences is the indie film's place as being the highest level of film creativity by Filipinos. Yes, the big studios continued to make romantic comedies starring the same love teams over and over again, but the indie film now possessed a cachet, a power—yes, a raisonne—that far outstripped anything the big companies were making. An international film festival, the Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival and Competition, became an annual exercise in both creativity and inspiration.

Now, more and more young Filipinos find themselves enthralled with the idea of making their own films. And all over the world, Filipino filmmakers are being recognized as being the edgiest, most imaginative of directors. Now, we know this to be true at home as well. We know we walk in a time of film genius.

And now, at a time when we are reminded to be thankful for the blessings we have received, we remind ourselves to always be thankful for the many independent filmmakers who have gifted us with their ability to tell truth from lie, beauty from derision, and light from darkness.



The narcissism of minor differences

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David



THIS CAPTIVATING phrase is from the book "Civilization and Its Discontents" by Sigmund Freud, the famous psychoanalyst and philosopher whose writings aimed, in his words, "to agitate the sleep of mankind." [illegible]

[illegible]

public.lives@gmail.com

Merry/Messy Christmas

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD



QUESTION: When was the first "photo ride" of Jesus, Mary and Joseph?

Answer: On their "flight" to Egypt!

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mt. 2, 13-15, 19-23) Joseph had to flee to Egypt with Mary and Jesus because the child's life was in danger. [illegible]

[illegible]

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help us not to have a "messy" but to have a "merry" Christmas, but more so, a "Mary" Christmas. Amen.

Transforming the Court



WITH DUE RESPECT
Artemio V. Panganiban

The house on Panay Avenue



METHOD TO MADNESS
Patricia Evangelista

Planners for nation-building



AT LARGE
Rina Jimenez-David

A good year for God



WORLD VIEW
Chris Patten

TALK of the TOWN

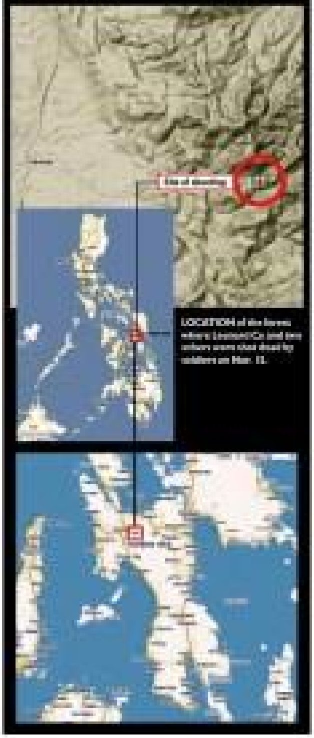






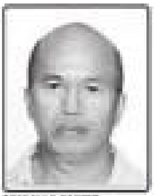
HOW IT HAPPENED

Death of a botanist

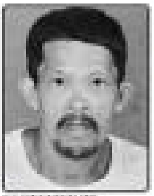




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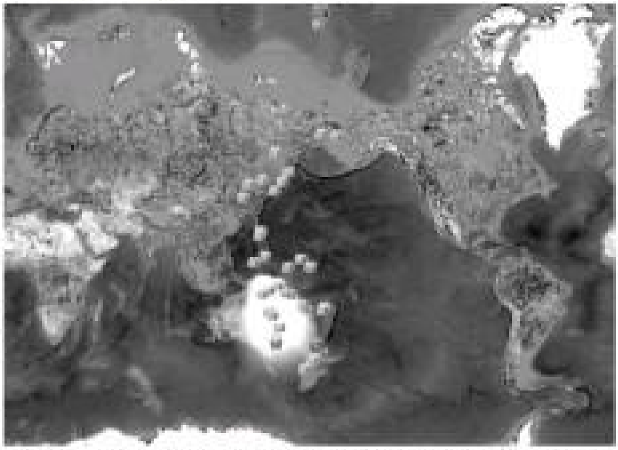
JULIUS BORROMEO

DAY OF SHOOTING

NOV. 15

SOCO VISIT

US first lady surprises kids trailing Santa



TRACKING SANTA This image provided by noradsanta.org, the official Norad tracking of Santa Claus, shows a satellite map of the world. Tracking Santa's travels is a celebrated tradition at the North American Aerospace Command.

First time

Tweets, Facebook



VOLUNTEERS take phone calls and answer e-mail at the Santa Tracking Operations Center at Peterson Air Force Base near Colorado Springs, Colorado.





ANSWERING QUESTIONS [illegible] to questions from youngsters about Santa at the Santa Tracking Operations Center.

Magic of Christmas

Pleas for help

A school rises from recycled plastic bottles in Laguna

Donations



WALL OF BOTTLES Volunteers put up a school wall made of discarded plastic bottles in San Pablo City.



DONORS NEEDED [illegible], executive director of the [illegible] Foundation Inc., encourages people to collect empty plastic bottles of soft drinks to be used in the construction of ecology-friendly school buildings.

INQUIRER Mindanao

Kids long for jailed, missing parents



Villagers revive rope-making tradition in Maguindanao

Heritage

Innovations

Pass on

Across the NATION

Bishop warns of dangers of RH bill anew

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Protect the family. This message rang out in Pampanga on Christmas Day when Archbishop Paciano Aniceto dwelt on the dangers posed by the reproductive health (RH) bill in his pastoral statement that was read in 92 parishes during *Misa de Gallo*.

NPA rebel thankful for second lease on life



CHRISTMAS VISIT

Falling mango tree kills 3 motorists

East Timor First Lady back home for the holidays

By Gabriel Cardinoza



EAST TIMOR's first lady Jacqueline Aquino Siapno.

Baguio football reinvented as sumo tournament



THE SUMO soccer players of Baguio

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✔ Extra FREEBIES	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Suggested freebie for iPhone users	[illegible]	[illegible]	F = Super Surf (unlimited surfing)	

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Aplus **METRO**

Small village big on holiday spirit

Fashion expert brings Christmas fantasy to life in Malate home



SOMEWHERE in Malate, Manila, lies a 19th century-style European village complete with snow-covered hills, quaint houses, children building snowmen and a choir tirelessly belting out "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" in the town square.

Recent addition

Childlike fantasies



ONE of the plazas in the miniature village with a choir singing in the background.



A TOY TRAIN which runs around the plaza is one of the village's main attractions.

Fires keep firemen busy on Christmas Eve



Small village big on …



GLOBAL Pinoy

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.



First PH-born senator in Guam a Batangueña



Service to community

Humble beginnings

A piano for her mom

Not a career politician

Holidays overseas differ from place to place

Simple affair in Singapore



100 relatives in the US



The WORLD



SANTAS UNDER FIRE [illegible] Afghanistan near the Pakistani border on Christmas Eve. AP

Female bomber kills 41 at food aid center

KHAR, PAKISTAN—A female suicide bomber detonated her explosives-laden vest in a crowded aid distribution center in northwest Pakistan on Saturday, killing at least 41 people and wounding 60 others waiting for food stamps, officials said.

The attack appeared to be the first suicide bombing staged by a woman in Pakistan, and it underscored the resilience of militant groups in the country's tribal belt despite ongoing military operations against them.

[illegible]



PAKISTANI soldiers bring a wounded man to a hospital in Peshawar following a suicide bombing in Bajur. AP

[illegible]

WorldBriefs

They're no CIA pawns

[illegible]

Voodoo killings rise

[illegible]

Perjury over sex life

[illegible]

More powers for Chavez

[illegible]

'Iron-willed commander'

[illegible]

Is that really Kate?

[illegible]

Traffic tip for Santa

[illegible]



WHAT'S INSIDE
■ PH football can't thank Dan enough
/A23

Sunday SPORTS



Gin Kings top Aces, book semis berth

Ginebra faces San Miguel next

BARANGAY GINEBRA coach Jong Uichico put it in simple terms how his Gin Kings came back from a 20-point first-quarter deficit yesterday.

VS MOSLEY

Pacquiao not taking fight lightly



A long PBA wish list for Santa

IN HUDDLE



Bowling ace Rivera makes big 2011 plans

Nadal dominates year; Isner memorable, too

Philtobo Championship race day at SCLP today



Austria battles France in claycourt hangar

AFF Suzuki Cup final kicks off tonight in Malaysia

Ousted PFF head eyes reprieve from CAS



PH football can't thank Dan enough

Global Smartmatic draws Stallions in UFL semis



TOP SHUTTLER

Failed Cup bidders told to accept loss

Unrepentant

Fitness keys Westwood's rise, caddy says



TOP CELTIC

Sunday Sports

Lakers finally get a taste of Heat





And now for the bad news

With 'Pacman-Money' out, fans turn to Wahlberg



Gillette shaves Woods off endorsers list

Cazares retains crown; Drian next?



Business Features Editor: Margie Quimpo-Espino

Sunday Biz



Secluded Cavite inn offers more than just bed and breakfast





Text and Photos
by Raven Lapitan
Inquirer Southern Luzon

INDANG, CAVITE—A secluded inn here is enticing guests and tourists who want to experience tranquility away from the bustling city. And it makes itself distinct from the usual concept of bed and breakfast that most tourists know.

[illegible]

WITHOUT turning so much hype, Balay Indang manages to become a favorite spot of tourists who wish to experience tranquility.



[illegible]

No fixed menu

[illegible]


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Who finishes strong? Leaders with visions to fulfill



Secluded Cavite inn offers more than just bed and breakfast







Sunday Biz

Mall with roots in Divisoria boosts trade in Pangasinan









Ups and downs of establishing new soft drink brand in Cebu



Developing sustainable kitchen need not be complicated





Sunday LIFESTYLE



Time, space, good governance (and love life)—Christmas wishes, and more

By Thelma San Juan

Time, space, good governance (and love life) —Christmas wishes, and more





Miraculous healing attributed to Padre Pio

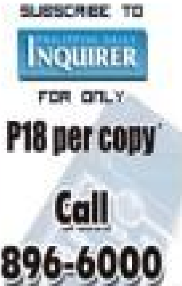




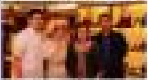






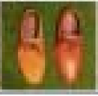


Inspiring Ideas for Holiday 2010











AFTER CHRISTMAS SALE AT SM MALL OF ASIA

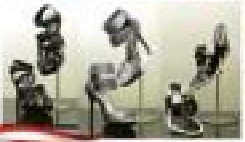
Go on a frenzied shopping spree with the best deals and the juiciest couture at the most unbelievable sale of the year!

At SM Mall of Asia, the country's hottest hub for lifestyle, dining, and entertainment, the holidays aren't over just yet! Satisfy your craving for a world-class shopping experience. Tempt yourself with a delectable choice of restaurants or spend an incredible day by simply relaxing with one of the most beautiful sunsets by the bay.

The stretch of local and international boutiques will go as far as the eye can see. The sweet and luscious scent of the hippest trends will tantalize you. It's the After Christmas sale and chic fashion couture can be found nowhere else but in this top-notch shopping haven.

Shop, dine and paint the town red from December 26, 2010 to January 1, 2011 and enjoy up to 70% off on the latest trends in the ultimate fashion destination!







"SM Mall of Asia is THE shopping mecca for the fashionista with the most discriminating taste. Give in to your craving for the hippest and trendiest fashions from local and international boutiques without worrying about the size of your pocket. We guarantee you will not be satisfied anywhere else but here!"



GREAT AMERICAN CIRCUS

December 31, 2010 | [illegible] | 4PM onwards

Get ready for a performance that will literally take your breath away! Watch the heart-stopping "Wheel of Death", the jaw-dropping Flying Trapeze, and the mind-blowing Crossbow Masters. The Great American Circus is in town and you can catch it live in Manila at the SMX Convention Hall at SM Mall of Asia from December 21, 2010 to January 4, 2011.

For show time and tickets, call 470-2222 (SM Tickets) or 891-9999 (TicketWorld). For corporate and charity inquiries, contact 433-8648. Visit the Great American Circus official website at www.takemetothecircus.com or their official Facebook page at www.facebook.com/greatamericancircusmanila.

2010 to 2011 THE GMA NEW YEAR COUNTDOWN

6PM onwards | December 31, 2010 | Seaside Boulevard

SM Mall of Asia and GMA Network invite you to welcome 2011 with a party that will bring down the house! On December 31, from 6PM onwards, enjoy a festival of performances from your favorite Kapuso stars and as the New Year approaches, join us in a loud and exciting countdown to the year 2011 with spectacular display of dazzling fireworks!

The Grand Mascot Parade

4PM | January 1, 2011 | North and South Arcades | Meet and Greet Photo Op at Music Hall

Start the New Year with a parade of your favorite characters! Over 100 mascots will be participating in the Grand Mascot Parade on January 1, 2011 and at 4PM this one exciting event will start from the North Arcade down to the South Arcade. You'll get a chance to meet and greet with the mascots at the Music Hall and take loads of pictures that you can brag to all your friends!





after christmas sale

UP TO **70% OFF** on selected items

Dec 26, 2010 to Jan 1, 2011

SM MALL OF ASIA

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 8162, series of 2010

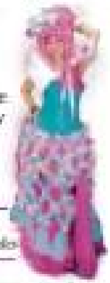
For inquiries, call 556-0680 or visit www.smmallofasia.com. Free mallwide wifi

Sunday LifeStyle



Why I missed the Christmas shopping rush

A Facebook battle for a cause and a charity exhibit of the gowns in my closet were the main reasons

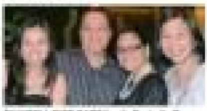


TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

CHRISTMAS CAME and went so quickly, I must have blinked and missed it! To mangle that famous phrase, "I have not yet begun to shop!"



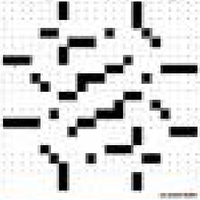
WORLD-RENOWNED singer Lea Salonga







Sunday Crossword



Why I missed the Christmas . . .



















Should she tell her officemate she's falling for her!





Home for . . .





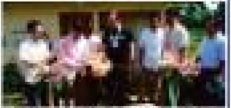









SM-UNICEF'S DRINK FOR 2 BRINGS CLEAN WATER TO MASBATE



Home for Christmas

Roots and Wings

Cathy Babao-Guballa



> Two stories of survival show us that if we pay close attention, we'll see how there are no accidents, and how everyone we meet has a purpose in our lives

To save a life

Right place, right time

Sunday LifeStyle

Señora strikes again!

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando and Mariel N. Francisco, Contributors



Señora (in yoga outfit and pose, shouting to maids): 'Hoy! 'Wag kayong maingay! 'Di ako maka-meditate!'



Señora (to amigas): "Di ba related ka kay P-Noy? Meron akong niece maganda, maputi and intelligent…'



Señora (to maids): 'Melody, Julie Ann, Sheila! Better not break that vase! Even five years of your salary won't pay for it…'

Pakamalan ke ing SM City Pampanga

Pakamalan Ke Ing SM City Pam

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

Apulang kasan na kasi ya!

When SM City Pampanga opened its doors to the public on November 2000, Kapampangans gave it such a warm reception that the opening day crowd and euphoria ... ber 2002, a third on October 2003, and a fourth of November 2007. Today, it is the longest and biggest mall in the Central Luzon region with a gross floor area of 130,000 ... Pampanga celebrates its 10th Anniversary this year, Kapampangans continue to pack the mall, shopping, eating out, watching movies, and having fun with their families ... Pampanga, the mall's anniversary tagline says it all —over the past ten years, Kapampangans have gro...



SM City Pampanga in 2000



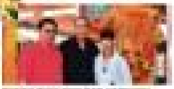


THE BEST OF

When SM City Pampanga opened in 2000, it not only brought SM's shopping, leisure, and entertainment excitement to Central Luzon, but also brought employment ... mall, and in some cases, eventually emerged as national brands. The mall's tenth anniversary celebration is also a showcase of the best of Pa...

HOMEGROWN HITS

Silverworks, Luring's Barbecue House, and Genevieve Gozum were the Kapampangan tenants saw the potential in opening stores and restaurants in the Pampanga's first mall ten years ago. These homegrown tenants showed their initiatives, the opportunities of opening their businesses in the mall, trailblazing a vibrant spirit of entrepreneurship in the province.



GENEVIEVE GOZUM







SILVERWORKS

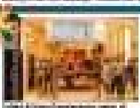


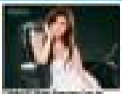


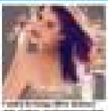
ALING LURING'S BARBECUE HOUSE

STYLE & SHINE

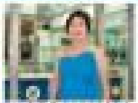
Kapampangans are known for their love of the good life. They are stylish and on the forefront of fashion trends. It is not surprising that homegrown brands, like Folded & Hung have since become major players in the local industry. Likewise, many homegrown jewelry businesses like Elynda's have brought to the mall the innovative designs and expert craftsmanship they have been known for.







FOLDED & HUNG

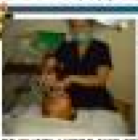


ELYNDA'S JEWELRY



BEAUTY AND WELLNESS

Kapampangans are known to be rather fastidious and conscious of their appearance, and were thrilled to discover the exciting range of beauty products and services in SM City Pampanga when it opened in 2000. With the popularity of spas in recent years, the mall has not only become a destination for beauty but also wellness in the area.



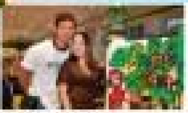


ST. ... WELLNESS AND SPA

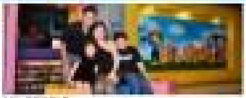


HAIR EXCHANGE

A PLACE FOR KIDS



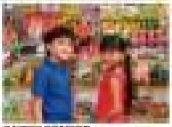
KIDDIE ... CART



LIL PEOPLE



KC KIDDIE CART

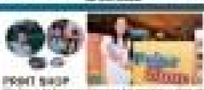


CANDY STATION

IT'S ALL HERE



DG PHONE CARDS



PRINT SHOP

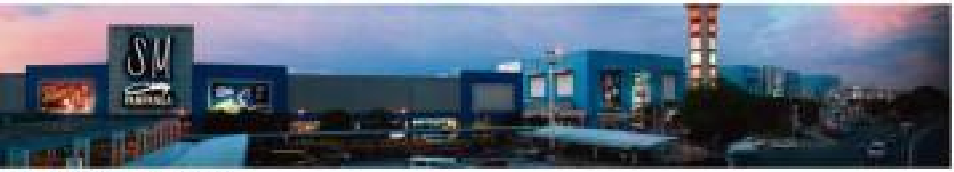


EDGECOM

...PANGA!

...OF GREAT SHOPPING AND FUN

...ains unmatched today and remains. Since that time, overwhelming consumer response has led to the mall's phenomenal expansion – a second building was added on Octo... ...square meters sprawling over a land area of 316,000 square meters. It is now called "Pampanga's Shopping Marathon", and is the longest mall in the country. As SM City ...and friends. And SM City Pampanga continues to be a work in progress, looking for more exciting and innovative ways to serve its customers. Pakamalan Ke lag SM City ...n to love SM is the same way that SM has grown to love the province that welcomed it with open arms.



...F PAMPANGA

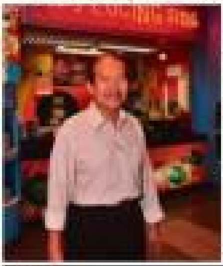
...d business opportunities to the province. Kapampangans, after all, are known to be very entrepreneurial, and found wonderful opportunities for their business in the ...mpanga and a tribute to Kapampangan entrepreneurship, as seen through our homegrown tenants in the mall. To them, we say thank you.

A TASTE OF PAMPANGA

The opening of SM City Pampanga made more Manilans aware of the wonderful flavors of Kapampangan cuisine – from specialties like sisig to delicious desserts like tibok-tibok and polvoron. With well-loved outlets like Aling Lucing's, Fishyland Delicacies, Sasmuan Delicacies, Betty's Native Special Cakes, and more joining the mall, Kapampangan cuisine has become more mainstream, and is now enjoyed by more people not only in Pampanga but the rest of the Philippines as well.

ALING LUCING SISIG

[illegible]





Aling Lucing's bestseller Sisig

Aling Lucing's Mr. Angelito Ong.

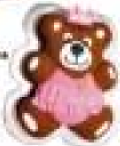
SWEET AND FANCY

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Pearl-Irish Mosaic cake



Ballerina Bear

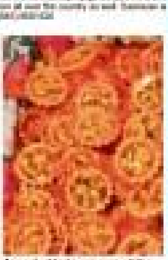
Sweet and Fancy owner Catherine Cariool

SASMUAN

[illegible]



Sasmuan's assistant Operations Manager Renato del Rosario



Assorted tarts are one of the bestsellers of Sasmuan.



Assorted Polvoron in butter, pinipig, cashew, choco and ube.

BETTY'S NATIVE CAKES AND PASTRIES

[illegible]



Kalamay from Betty's.



Suman from Betty's



Puto cheese from Betty's

Señora strikes again!



Señora (to 'amigas'): 'Oh, I love Pavarotti.! He plays the piano so well!'



Señora: 'Que horror sa ipis! Dali, Melody, patayin mo uli! Nagsap-stay-patayin lang yan!'





Señora (to 'amigas'): 'I just bought imported dog food for Fifi. Masarap di ba, Melody?'

Melody: 'Yes po! Sa akin nyo pinatikman!'



Señora: 'Tse, dami mo nang utang, Melody.'

Melody (looking at señora's bills from Marsika, Rustan's, etc): 'Kayo rin po ma'am!'

Señora: Ewan ko kayo! My comfort food is steak and potatoes!



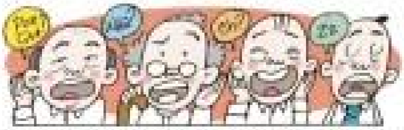
Señora (to 'amigas'): 'Okay, for our charity ball, we'll charge P12,000 per ticket. Kasi remember, we still have to give 3 percent to orphanage!'



Señora (at Ateneo Art Auction): 'What's the highest bid of that Isabelo Rosario? Basta make mine higher. Kahit ang artwork!'



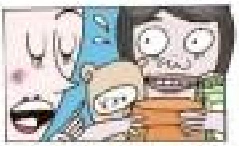
Señora (lying down on couch of spa, whispering to masahista): 'Hija, puntahan mo na lang ako sa bahay para mura-mura...'



Señora (to amigas): 'Our guests are all senior citizens. Seat according to ear. Sir Dodo on the right of Ma'am Betty who can't hear with her left ear. Sir Dodo's right ear is dead. Justice Tito has selective hearing. But Sir Max is stone deaf so you can put him anywhere.'



Señora (to interior designer): 'I like interior like Rosario's. 'Yung may antique antique, ha!'



Señora (to maid carrying grocery bags): 'Melody, ang brown rice, malunggay, at muscovado, para sa amin ni Sir.'

Maid (thought balloon): 'Di ba dati pagkain mahirap yan!'



Señora: We hired events coordinator for mamang and papang's diamond anniversary. Siya na din ang kanilang funeral coordinator.

ENTERTAINMENT

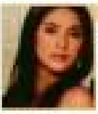
Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Cheer Factor

MMFF 'Parangal' tonight

THE COUNTRY'S biggest stars gather tonight at the 36th Metro Manila Film Festival "Gabi ng Parangal" at the Meralco Theater in Pasig City. The awards night, to be hosted by the Gutierrez siblings Ruffa, Raymond and Richard, will be aired on GMA 7. A red carpet reception kicks off at ... in the program, which starts at 7:30.

Wishlist



Empress Schuck

IF I WERE PRESIDENT, I'd open Malacañang Palace to street children on Christmas Day. I'd also treat poor kids to a day of fun in Enchanted Kingdom, Star City and other amusement parks all over the country. As for well-off kids, I'd give discounts to their parents when they go shopping for gifts in Toy Kingdom. These treats may seem insignificant to us, but these are a big deal for children.



Rita Avila

If I were President, I'd require all Filipinos to attend Discipline Class so that there would be genuine orderliness and respect for each other and for the country. We can begin our practical exams on the road as drivers, commuters and even as pedestrians.

Lea Salonga



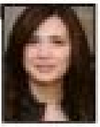
If I were President, I'd definitely make sure there's a budget allocated for education. I'd also make certain that the Reproductive Health Bill is passed. The RH bill is not perfect in its form right now, but it is an urgent need. I'd also prioritize arts education. When the arts are sacrificed, the academics suffer as well. I'd create projects that would foster livelihood among the urban and rural

WISH F3

WISHLIST

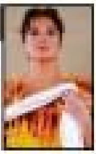
From page F1

post. It can't be a "give-man-a-fish" thing; we should have a "teach-man-to-fish" mentality. Dole-outs are not the solution. We need to provide access to jobs and give people the dignity to be able to provide for their families.



Zsa Zsa Padilla

If I were President, I'd make education a priority. Given the right schooling, a person would learn to speak for himself. I highly regard (CNN Hero) Efren Peñaflorida and our teachers and student counterparts in the hinterlands who serve marginalized Filipinos. I admire children who walk barefoot for miles to reach their schools in the mountains. I'd build more schools, raise teachers' salaries and give them study grants.



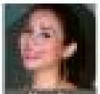
Tetchie Agbayani

If I were President, I'd issue an Executive Order to encourage all government employees who deal directly with the public to give a warm "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" greeting with a smile to the people who seek their assistance. It is cost effective, easy to do and will warm the hearts of the general public. —Bayani San Diego Jr.



Rep. Lani Mercado

If I were President, I'd issue an Executive Order to release all political prisoners on Christmas Day. It's the best way to promote peace and goodwill and show the sincerity of the government to walk the talk of peace with all rebels.



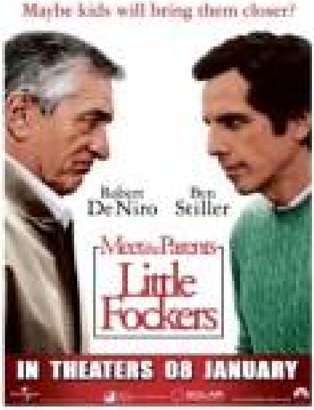
Karylle

If I were President, I'd issue an Executive Order that would require people to recycle trash, like those collected at Christmastime—gift wrappers, boxes, ribbons, shopping bags, etc. I'd also encourage segregation of trash from holiday parties.

Rich Celeb buys fake designer bags





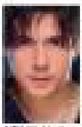


By the Entertainment Staff

JUST IN TIME FOR THE holiday season, Rich Celebrity was reportedly spotted in the bargain section of a shopping mall in the Middle East, buying loads of fake Hermes bags.

We can hope RC isn't giving away those made-in-China items as Christmas gifts. Rich handling.

Also seen snapping up fake luxury goods at the same place was Popular Personality, wife of Generous and Politico. Seems she is scrimping now. Whatever happened to GP's wealth?


JM de Guzman

Bad-news boss

Handsome Celeb is trying a new gig, one that helps the plan and plans out of his old job.

Perhaps relishing the spotlight, HC started acting like a prima donna, was habitually late for meetings, and when asked to apologize for his tardiness—like it was his underlings' fault that they had arrived early.

Signed and sealed

It's confirmed. Motion Actor has moved to another studio.

No-one from either camp—his old and new networks—was willing to talk, even after the contract had been signed.

Reliable Sources Quip, more than one, say that the move will be announced in mid-January upon MA's return from a US trip. They insist that MA has no existing contract that might prevent the transfer.

Who is MA? Let's just say he loves the joys of eating chicken. Biggest hints: Age is something Aga Muhlach!

Inconsistency

What Influential Insider says in public is different from what happens behind the scenes.

II supposedly instructed Waiting Staff to patch things up. Those in the know suspect, however, that II is secretly fanning the flames, so WS would get it double attention.

After all, "WS" careers are kinda looking to better just now. Baka they just need to cool their combatants?

Apology accepted

The usually trouble-making "Showtime" Jessica member last Tuesday after our guest judge, at the Jacqui Aloe, was reduced to tears following Pinoy Evangelista's apology for failing to reprise her role as "Pia" in "Sep. Tanging Ina Mo, Last Na 'To." Through a text message sent to resident Judge, Vice Ganda, Heart thanked her "Tanging Ina" family and expressed her disappointment in not being in an interview aired on "TV Patrol," the Comedy Concert Queen said that she was touched by Heart's gesture, and that she bore no ill feelings for the actress.


HEART Evangelista

Lea denies rumor

Lea Salonga has denied rumors that her marriage to Robert Chien is on the rocks. In fact, she said, they are going to spend the holidays in California with Rob's family.

Meanwhile, she laughed off talk that she had asked former screen sweetheart Aga Muhlach, to lose weight for their reunion movie. "I'm not skinny [either]!" she said in an interview aired on "TV Patrol."

"Kapamilya ni KC"

Gabby Concepcion has expressed a desire to follow in the footsteps of his father, Gabby, and half-sister, KC, to show biz. On "Showbiz News Ngayon," Gian said he was serious, but that she will set out to establish her own identity. "I would [not] want to be known as ... kapatid ni KC or anak ni Gabby," she said. *With Allan Policarpio, contributor*

Metro Manila Film Festival

(We are running this guide to help moviegoers plan their holiday cinema fare. The 36th MMFF runs until Jan. 7.)

Shake, Rattle & Roll 12

DIRECTED by Topel Lee, Jerrold Tarog, Zurin Legaspi; stars Mylene Dizon, Andi Eigenmann, Carla Abellana, Sid Lucero, Ricky Davao, Rita Avila, Mark Agoncillo, Nika Joss, Harvey Cruz, Sole Riggins, Odette Khan.

The horror anthology tells the story of a demonic doll, an enchanted island and a grisly funeral parlor. The three episodes feature gorgeous young Kapamilya and Kapuso stars in various states of panic. Lee, a veteran of the franchise, picked "Isla" because it's more "fantasy than horror" and is about a sexy girl (Eigenmann) who attracts an otherworldly creature. "Mamanika" is the directorial debut of actor Legaspi, and is about a murderous toy that attacks a girl (Mag-dayao) and her family. "Punerarya" serves as the malevolent centerpiece of Tarog, a tale of a girl who recounts the struggles of a carer (Abellana) terrorized by a family of vampires. *Bayani San Diego, Jr.*

